



Sydney & Northern NSW

Branch News – June 2017

In June our speaker was Geoffrey Hull, a brilliant and engaging speaker who spoke about the naming of things and then applied that to the field of phytonymy, or what flower names tell us - the naming of plants. As a professional philologist researching the evolution of languages and their cultural contexts, he was involved in several projects concerning the nomenclature of tropical plant species while working in Timor between 2001 and 2008, and studied their vernacular names and the rationale behind their terminology. He was able to make what may have seemed arcane accessible – a true boffin. We had a great turn out and I spoke to many after the talk who shared my delight.

I heard recently that Peter Watts was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Melbourne in December last year. The Doctor of Architecture is one of the highest academic honours bestowed by the University, and recognises Peter's substantial achievements. Peter Watts was a founding member of the Australian Garden History Society and a supporter of garden history.

The *Landscapes at Risk Register*, to which we are always adding, now includes Parramatta North and the Parramatta Sun newspaper ran a piece on 5 July advising that more than 100 trees are earmarked for demolition at the Parramatta North urban transformation precinct. According to UrbanGrowth NSW's recent arboriculture report, out of 928 trees at the site, 117 will be removed.

Woollahra Council have a plaque scheme where they install an interpretive plaque to commemorate people significant to their area. The Sydney Branch nominated Thomas Sutcliffe Mort and we were advised that the suggestion has been adopted.

After a short AGM in August, Tanya Hoolihan will speak about Ludwig Leichhardt and his significant contribution to scientific studies in colonial Australia. Fluent in 5 languages and a student of zoology, botany and geology, Leichhardt was one of the most qualified scientists to have work in Australia at the time. Yet despite Leichhardt's botanical knowledge his application to become the Director of the Botanical Gardens was rejected. Tanya's talk will highlight some of the diary entries that relate to the flora recorded, the influence Leichhardt had on early botanical discoveries and his connection to important gardens and institutes such as the Royal Botanical Gardens and Camden Park.

Don't forget, if you'd like to be on the committee, we can take nominations from the floor, so please consider what skills you might have that would benefit the society and nominate yourself or a friend.

If you have any suggestions you would like the committee to consider, please feel free to contact me – we do appreciate the feedback.

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